SRI K. BALASUBRAMANYA AYYAR : Are they working properly?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : They are not only working properly but they have repaid the instalments.

Panchayat courts

* 31 *Q*.—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of panchayat courts formed after the Panchayats Act, 1958, has come into force districtwar;

(*b*) the number of panchayat courts yet to be formed in the State districtwar; and

(*c*) the reasons for the delay in constituting such courts?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) 'Nil'.

(*b*) 'Nil'.

(*c*) The Madras Panchayats Act, 1958, provides that after the panchayat union councils are constituted under the Act, the village panchayats shall cease to perform functions of panchayat courts. The Board of Revenue has been asked to take necessary steps to establish village courts under section 6 of the Madras Village Courts Act, 1888, and to create courts of village munsifs under section 7 of the Act in the areas where the Madras Panchayats Act, 1958, has come into force. The consolidated proposals from the Board of Revenue in this regard are awaited.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDAN : Are the Government aware that there are no panchayat courts now functioning in most of the villages excepting a very few, that are working against the rules? It has been stated by the Hon. Minister that all those panchayats were not authorized to function as panchayat courts. So, there are actually no courts in the villages and villagers find it rather difficult and rather expensive to go to the nearest civil courts. Will the Government take some steps to expedite the election to the panchayat courts?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : As I said, consolidated proposals from the Board of Revenue are awaited, but aggrieved parties can go to the village munsif's court.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Since the Panchayat Union Council Act has come into force and since the village munsifs' courts are not preferred by the villagers, will the Government at least conduct elections to the panchayat courts or authorize the present panchayats to act as village courts?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I have stated clearly that it is not the idea of the Government that we should have the village panchayats elected to perform the judicial functions. There

4th March 1963]

are no longer village courts which will exercise jurisdiction. All these will be assigned to the village munsif and the village munsif will function as the village court.

திரு. ஆர். வெங்கடாசலம் : தலைவர் அவர்களே, பஞ்சாயத்துக்களில் பழைய பஞ்சாயத்துச் சட்டப்படி பஞ்சாயத்துக்களுக்கான கோர்ட் அதிகாரங்கள் இருந்தன. அதனால் பொதுமக்களுக்குக் குறைந்த செலவில் கோர்ட் நடவடிக்கைகள் நடத்துவதற்குச் சாதகமாக இருந்தது. அதனால் மீண்டும் பஞ்சாயத்துக்களுக்கு அந்த அதிகாரங்களை வழங்க அரசாங்கம் முன்வருமா ?

கனம் திரு. எம். பக்தவத்சலம் : தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்ட ஸ்தாபனங்களுக்கு அந்த மாதிரி நீதி வழங்கும் பொறுப்பைக் கொடுப்பது சரியல்ல என்ற அரசாங்கத்தின் உத்தேசத்தின் பேரில் புதிதாக அமைக்கப்படும் பஞ்சாயத்துக்களுக்கு இந்தப் பொறுப்பு இல்லை என்று சட்டம் செய்திருக்கிறது.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : The Minister said that the elected representatives should not act as panchayat courts. But is it not laid down in the Act itself that elections should be held to the panchayat courts that will consist of only elected representatives?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I cannot understand what the hon. Member means. Under the Act the panchayats have no jurisdiction. Therefore, there is no question of electing any panchayat courts for the purpose of exercising judicial jurisdiction.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : The Act provides that representatives would be elected to act as village courts?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The proposal under the present Act is that the village munsifs may be constituted into village court.

Compensation grant

* 32 *Q.*—SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the rate at which compensation grant due to loss of fee income on account of various concessions is paid;

(*b*) whether any representation has been received by the Government that the advance grant paid due to loss of fee income is not adequate enough to meet the salaries of the teaching staff; and

(*c*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) At present the compensation grant is calculated at the rates of fee levied during 1955–56 in the case of schools in existence during 1955–56 and at